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SPECIFIC GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS

MIGRANT WORKERS

Status of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and efforts made by the Secretariat to promote the Convention

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, by its resolution 45/158 of 18 December 1990, adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and called upon all Member States to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Convention as a matter of priority.

2. In its resolution 2000/49 of 25 April 2000, the Commission on Human Rights called upon all Member States to consider the possibility of signing and ratifying or acceding to the Convention as a matter of priority, and expressed the hope that it would enter into force at an early date; requested the Secretary-General to provide all facilities and assistance necessary for the active promotion of the Convention, through the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights and the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights; welcomed the launching of the global campaign for entry into force of the Convention and invited organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to continue and intensify their efforts with a view to

disseminating information on the Convention and promoting an understanding thereof; and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission at its fifty-seventh session a report on the status of the Convention and on the efforts made by the Secretariat to promote the Convention and the protection of the rights of migrant workers.

3. As at 15 November 2000, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families has been ratified or acceded to by 15 States, namely: Azerbaijan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cape Verde, Colombia, Egypt, Ghana, Guinea, Mexico, Morocco, the Philippines, Senegal, Seychelles, Sri Lanka and Uganda. In addition it had been signed by the following 10 States: Bangladesh, Chile, Comoros, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Paraguay, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Tajikistan and Turkey. The Convention will enter into force when at least 20 States have ratified or acceded to it.

4. Promotion of the international human rights treaties, including the Convention, is an ongoing priority of the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. In a follow-up to their 1997 appeal to Governments urging ratification of the treaties, the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner sent a joint letter to heads of Governments on 19 January 1999, to which some positive responses have already been received. In addition, on 15 May 2000, the Secretary-General sent a letter to all heads of State or Government inviting them to take the opportunity presented by the Millennium Summit, to be held in New York from 6 to 8 September 2000, to sign and ratify or accede to the multilateral treaties deposited with him. The 25 treaties representing the United Nations key objectives were listed in an attachment to the letter. The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families was included in that core group of treaties. As a result, three ratifications or accessions to and seven signatures of the Convention were deposited with the Secretary-General in September/October 2000.

5. Under the joint programme between the Office of the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights and the United Nations Development Programme entitled "Human rights strengthening", a series of workshops at the subregional and national levels will be organized in 2001. These workshops will aim at raising understanding of the main treaty provisions, examining the implications of ratification and informing Governments of the kinds of assistance that are available from the United Nations if they should wish to pursue ratification. The Convention on the Rights of Migrants is one of the seven treaties covered by these workshops.

6. Furthermore, the International Steering Committee of the Global Campaign for Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Migrants, which was formed in March 1998 for the purpose of building and popularizing a global campaign to promote the ratification and entry into force of the Convention, continued its activities, including through its national counterparts. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights together with the International Organization for Migration, the International Labour Organization and other oranizations participated in and supported this initiative. In particular, a round table was held

on 12 April 2000 during the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Human Rights. The round table was attended by the High Commissioner, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child pornography and child prostitution.

7. In addition, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants continued to promote adherence to the Convention within the framework of the mandate entrusted to her by the Commission on Human Rights. She attended a meeting of the Steering Committee in June 2000 and she intends to urge the Governments of countries she will visit to ratify the Convention.

8. Finally, through the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights, efforts have been pursued by the Secretariat to establish a dialogue with States not having adhered to international human rights treaties, including the Convention on the Rights of Migrants.